

Transmitted Via Facsimile to (577) 273-8300

PATENT
138543 (553-1077)

Remarks

Claims 6, 7, 9, 26, and 27 are currently pending in this Application. Claims 6, 7, 9, 26, and 27 stand rejected. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 6, 7, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,619,998 (Abdel-Malek) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,879,729 (Kamath), and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,674,879 (Weisman). Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdel-Malek in view of Kamath, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,887,306 (Hwang). Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the reasons set forth hereafter.

The Examiner asserts that co-displaying first and second images that are speckle-reduced, using the speckle reduction parameters of different first and second value sets, as recited in independent claim 6, is obvious based on Weisman. Applicant disagrees for at least the reasons enumerated below.

With regard to whether co-displaying first and second images that are speckle-reduced using the speckle reduction parameters of different first and second value sets as being obvious in view of Weisman, the Examiner asserts that "[h]ere the combination is the predictable method of generating multiple speckle reduced versions of an image (light, moderate and heavy, col. 13 lines 1-6) and displaying them with the predictable method of simultaneously co-displaying multiple filtered versions of an image (figure 7), according to their established functions." (Page 4 of the outstanding Office Action). However, Weisman does not describe "generating multiple [different] speckle reduced versions of an [the same] image", nor is generating multiple speckle reduced versions of an image predictable. Weisman describes that before processing raw image data into speckle reduced, edge detected, and color quantization images, a user may select light, moderate, or heavy speckle. However, Weisman does not describe that once a speckle level has been set and the raw image data has been processed with such a level, that the raw image data is then speckle reduced using a different speckle level. In contrast, claim 6 requires that the same raw data stream is speckle-reduced using the speckle reduction parameters of different first and second value sets. At no point does Weisman describe that the same raw image data is at any

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time speckle reduced using a different level than is initially selected. Accordingly, Weisman does not describe "generating multiple speckle reduced versions of an image". The Examiner's reasoning quoted above therefore fails. Applicant therefore submits that co-displaying first and second images that are speckle-reduced using the speckle reduction parameters of different first and second value sets, as recited in independent claim 6, is not obvious based on Weisman.

Because Abdel-Malek, Kamath, and Weisman individually fail to describe one or more elements of claim 6, it follows that a combination of Abdel-Malek, Kamath, and Weisman cannot describe or suggest such element(s). For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Abdel-Malek in view of Kamath, and further in view of Weisman.

Independent claims 26 and 27 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to independent claim 6.

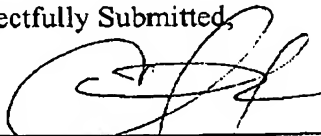
Turning to the dependent claims, Hwang does not make up for the deficiencies of Abdel-Malek, Kamath, and Weisman at least with respect to independent claim 6. Applicant submits that the dependent claims 7 and 9 each contain further recitations that are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references. Additionally, claims 7 and 9 depend from claim 6. Consequently, because claim 6 defines allowable subject matter, claims 7 and 9 also defines allowable subject matter.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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